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Gibson told him that it was so important to get that bear, for him to go on where the bear was raising the devil with the hounds, and so Mr. Sheets came to the bear.

Lame Paw, twelve inches between the ears, was trying to put his paw on the dog, and when the paw came down the dog was elsewhere. Sheets had the following equipment: A Winchester repeating shot gun, with shell loaded with an ounce ball. It seems that of late years, the man who carries a twelve guage shotgun that uses shells, each containing an ounce of small shot, may buy at the hardware stores shells in which each has an ounce ball and this ball cartridge when shot from such a shotgun has about the same range as the old time mountain rifle, and it is very effective ammunition for deer and bears.

The bear and dogs were fussing around in a grown up hacking and Sheets was able to shoot Lame Paw twice before the harrassed bear knew that that his enemy was on him. One of the balls went through the body near the heart and the other entered near the backbone and ranged back to the ham. The bear then went on and the dogs showed their perfect team work, each tugging at a ham and dodging and coming again.

Sheets followed but for a time it was not possible to shoot on account of the presence of the hounds and Sheets, having plenty of speed, ran around the bear and took his position on a rocky place in a cleft in the cliffs where the bear must pass. And out of the brush the big brute came

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and as it happened, he got rid of the dogs for the time being.

Now a bear being the wisest and most timid of animals where man is concerned, will not come in shouting distance if he can help it, but when cornered or attacked there is no animal as dangerous and as hard to stop with a ball. In this case the bear, desperately wounded but with all his power left, made directly at the hunter as fast as he could lay his feet to the ground, and the hunter refusing to be a consenting party to his own destruction, in the space of a fraction of a second took aim and shot Lame Paw square between the eyes, and the big hunt was over.

On being examined the worn condition of the teeth indicated an old bear. It was as fat as fat could be and the meat was good to those who like bear meat. Owing to the late spring the hide was in perfect condition, the hair being long, thick, black and glossy.

The bear was thought to have weighed about five hundred pounds, and was the second largest bear that had been killed on the waters of Elk, and that was saying a good deal for there have been hundreds if not thousands of bears killed in those fine bear grounds.

The largest bear was fourteen inches between the ears, and was the famous Williams River sheep killing bear, killed on Elk in 1910 by Samuel Gibson. He was generally referred to as the "Old Hellion", and he used on Elk River and Williams River for years and actually put some farmers out of the sheep business.

...ped dead.
15 minutes

Marathon Race----- 1898

The year of 1898 saw the revival of the Olympic games in Greece after 4000 years. These Englishmen at Mingo were very much interested in them, and they sent a challenge, to the boys at Marlinton, for a of 25 miles. The challenge was accepted. As the day approached and training went on, our athletes at Marlinton began with one accord to make excuses, for 25 miles and over two mountains, is a long run.

The Marlinton entries dwindled down to one, but Mingo was in no better shape, for they found that they could have but one entry. Dr. Norman R. Price, who has since won the rank of major in the army(world war), was the entry from Marlinton. S.E.L.Grews, a splendid gentleman, a son of an English colonel, was the other entry. A telephone line had recently been built into the county and people could keep tab on the race.

The race was to begin at the Randolph county line, and was to be run over what is now the Seneca Trail to Marlinton. It took place on September 24, 1898. Andrew Price was the time-keeper.

The two boys raced to much at the start and made the first 12 miles in an hour, but at just 2 hrs. 59 minutes Grews came in winning. As he came toward the goal, he had the expression of a deer that had been run to death by hounds. He went home with death in his face, and in a few weeks he dropped dead.

Norman Price came in in three hours and 15 minutes. He told me that he felt none the worse for the race except that

his feet were blistered and very sore for about a week. He said that he had on leather shoes, as tennis shoes were unknown in Pocahontas at that time.

I interviewed Dr. Price on April 26, 1940 for this material, as the account given in the W. Va. Blue Book 1928 was not like I had always heard it. Dr. Norman said his brother Andrew just wrote that for a joke on him.

April 23, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

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Chapter 4 - Section 3

The Story of Selim, the Algerine.

Mr. Andrew Price, on one of his visits to Highland County visited the home of Col. Lewis McClung on Bull Pasture River. Mr. Price said that he felt some hesitancy in breaking into the group of people seated on the long porch of the beautiful old colonial home. He was received very hospitably and Mr. Price found that he had an inexhaustable fund of historical knowledge. They talked about the fort being established there in 1754 when the frontier of Virginia was being guarded against the French and Indians, from the west. This is Fort George and it is reasonably certain that the old Indian chief who lodged a complaint at the council at Easton, Pennsylvania, that a friendly party of Iriquois had been taken prisoner at Marlinton, referred to this fort. He said that they were taken two days journey to another fort, and that means that it was either Fort Dinwiddie on Jacksons River or this Fort George on the Bull Pasture. The old chief said that was in 1755. General Andrew Lewis was in charge of the garrison at Marlins Bottom that year. Before reaching the fort two days journey away, two of the Indians were killed and one taken prisoner, and the rest esceped to take the bad news home.

Before the visit ended Mr. Price asked Colonel McClung, "I have come a long ways to ask you a question. What about Selim, the Algerian."

"You mean Selim, the Algerine?"

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" Yes, the Algerine."

" Why they found him out in your county."

And this is the story in substance: About the year 1760, a hunter by the name of Givens, a brother to the famous Col. Givens, was hunting in the wilderness on Elk River and at the famous Big Spring, and he came upon a man hid in a tree top. The man was naked, starving, and all but dead, but he was able to restore him and brought him to the settlements on the Cow Pasture River, some sixty odd miles from the place where he was found. There he was taken in by Col. Dickenson. It is said that he was first taken to the home of Andrew Sitlington. This was Mr. Price's step great, great, great grandfather from whom he got his given name, and he lived on the Greenbrier at that time, having lived at Marlins Bottom, Clover Lick, and Dunmore after moving in from the Cow Pasture settlements.

The captive was a dark skinned man of pleasing appearance but no one could understand his language. After a time he was taken to the Old Stone Church settlement near Staunton and the pastor of that church was the Rev. Mr. Craig, who was a French scholar. When he addressed the stranger in that language, it was understood, and they soon had his story. The fact that the stranger understood the French language indicated that he was a an educated, cultivated man. It appeared that he was a native of Algiers, of the Mohammedan religion. His name was Selim, no doubt derived

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from Sultans of that name, Algiers being a Turkish possession down to 1830.

The French and Indian wars having broken out Selim came to America as a French soldier and landed at New Orleans and came up that river and during the course of the campaign was taken prisoner by the Indians and brought to some Indian town in the interior. There was no Indian town at that time within the bounds of West Virginia. The Indians of the middle west were all with the French. There was an outlaw band of Indians at that time on the Ohio River known as Mingoos that were independent. Their town is at Mingo Bottom which is a few miles out of Wheeling. Anyway, he was in some Indian town and might well have been with the Mingoos, for when he escaped, he was found within a few miles of Mingo from whence the Mingoos had moved at or about that time, and the trail must have been well marked.

He said that while he had come from the south, that two women prisoners among the Indians had informed him that the nearest white settlements were to the east, and if these women prisoners were French, Ft. Duquesne at Pittsburgh might have been indicated. He escaped and made his way as far as Elk River where he was found by a hunter in a perishing condition.

Under the ministration of the Rev. Mr. Craig he accepted the Christian religion and remained in the settlements on the Cow Pasture a considerable time.

After a time he left the settlements on the river and

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made his way to Richmond where he was made much of by the people of that city, and a little later he was heard of in Philadelphia, where his picture was painted by some great painter. And then he went back to Algiers.

After being gone some years, he came back to Richmond saying that his father had disowned him and disinherited him because he had renounced the Mohamoden faith. He remained in the vicinity of Richmond the rest of his life and is buried in that city.

From a copy of the Pocahontas Times for Sept. 1923

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

LOCATION

✓ The geographical position of our county is defined from 37 degrees 40 minutes to 38 degrees 45 minutes north Latitude; from 79 degrees 35 minutes, to 80 degrees 24 minutes West Longitude.

Pocahontas is an eastern border county, Allegheny top being the line between Pocahontas and Virginia. From the venter of West Virginia, Pocahontas County is located to the southeast. Among the distinctive features of the north portion of this county is the fact of its being a part of the high region where nearly every river system of the Virginia's find their head springs; The entire county has a great elevation, some of the highest peaks in the state being within its limits. (From Historical Markers of Pocahontas County - State Library.)

LOCATION

✓ Pocahontas is an eastern border county. Pocahontas County, in the Appalachian Highlands was formed in 1821 from parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph Counties. (Virginia) and named for Pocahontas, the Indian princess. Pocahontas County is bordered on the south by Greenbrier County and on the west by Nicholas and Fayette and on the north by Webster County. (Blue Book, 1938)

AREA

✓ The area of Pocahontas County is 942.61 square miles. 942.61 x 640 -- 603,270.4
Pocahontas County is the third largest.

TYPE OF LAND

✓ The County has been called the birthplace of rivers. The source of Cheat River flows from the northern part of Pocahontas County also the same applies to the Elk, except that its source is from the western part of the county. The source of Gauley River is also from the western part. The Greenbrier River's source is from the northern part of Pocahontas County. The source of the Tygart River is from the northern part of Pocahontas County. The Williams, Cranberry and Cherry, the

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other mentioned rivers have their rise in this county and all flow to the westward.

East Pocahontas is mountainous and in former years heavily timbered with white pine and much other valuable timber, and abounds in iron ores. Central Pocahontas consists largely of limestone lands.

Throught the county there is such an abundance of purest, freshest waters as baggers all ordinary powers of description. Literally it is a land of springs and mountains, beyond the dreams of poetic diction to portray realistically. Some of the streams gushing from the earth, even in midsummer show undimished volume, and with a temperature but little above that of iced water. The entire county is seemingly underlaid with vast reservoirs, whose dimensions puzzle imagination, for from the level land as well as from the mountain sides pour forth great springs, many of them with volume sufficient to propel water mills. Larger streams thus starting from a hillside sometimes diappear only to appear elsewhere from some unexpected opening in the earth. Of this it is believed that Locust Creek furnishes a notable example in the relation to Hills Creek. (W.Va. Atlas)

SOIL

The soil of Pocahontas County is likewise diversified. In some sections the land is thin and in others rugged; but the greater portion is exceedingly fertile, and there cannot be found in this state, or any other state, a locality better adapted to grazing and farming. - (From a Reminiscent History of Northern W. Va.)

TOPOGRAPHY

The county is very mountainous and has a number of mountain peaks reaching 4,500 feet in height, among which may be named Bald Knob, Mace Knob, Gibson Knob, Spruce Knob of Elk, Spruce Knob of Williams River, Barlow Top and Briery Knob. The Droop Mountain Battlefield, in this coupty, is the site of the most extensive Civil War battle fought in the state, which occurred On ^{NOV.} ~~Nov~~ 6, 1863. It was acquired by the State, in 1929, and is now a Battlefield Park. (W.Va. Standard Atlas).

CLIMATE - BLUE BOOK 1938

STATION	COUNTY	AVERAGE TEMPERATURE ANNUAL LENGTH OF RECORD (YRS)	TEMPERATURE
Marlinton	Pocahontas	39 years	48.1 deg.

The average Maximum temperature (annual) is 59.5. The average minimum temperature is 36.4.

The average rainfall 47.26 (forty-seven inches and 26 hundredths. The average number of days .01 inch or more - 121. The average annual Snowfall is 31 in. 6/10 tenths.

HISTORIC MARKERS

From the standpoint of climate, Pocahontas is subject to severe winters and ideal summers. The rainfall averages 47 inches.

Magisterial Districts (4) as follows: Edray, Greenbank, Huntersville, Little Levels.

Incorporated Cities, Towns and Villages:

NAME	POPULATION
Cass, W. Va.	708
Durbin, W. Va.	498
Hillsboro, W. Va.	220
Marlinton, W. Va.	1,586

The history of emigration or migration - Historic Markers, State Library.

County Seat - Marlinton, West Virginia.

First established in 1749 and known as Marlin's Bottom until 1887. Incorporated in 1900. Named for Jacob Marlin, one of the first white settlers to spend a

winter in Pocahontas County, the other being Stephen Sewell, Edray, West Virginia.

Named after a town in ancient Palestine, meaning a place surrounded. Settled prior to Revolutionary War by Thomas Drinnon. Famous camping place of Indians who broke

up the Drinnon home, murdered his wife and carried his son away in captivity beyond the Ohio River. A stopping place mentioned by Bishop Francis Asbury in his journey from Maine to Georgia.

AGRICULTURE

A survey of the agricultural statistics of Pocahontas County reveals that in

1930, there were 1,614 people engaged in farming on 1,201 farms. In 1930 there were 250,824 acres of land in farms in Pocahontas County, which produced crops valued at \$832,283. The value of dairy products were \$44,738, and the value of livestock was estimated at \$1,377,497. (The above was taken from Rand McNally World Atlas, 1939).

Killing frosts early and late made the working of land a precarious source of subsistence until a comparatively recent period in the history of our county. As late as ¹⁶¹⁰ ~~1910~~, the fact that corn would ripen at Marlin's Bottom enough to be fit for meal was nearly a year's wonder. Gardens for onions, parsnips, cucumbers, pumpkins, and turnips; patches of buckwheat, corn, beans, and potatoes, for many years comprised the most of pioneer farming enterprise in the way of supplementing their supplies of game and fish. The implements used for clearing and cultivating these gardens and tuck patches were of home manufacture, and for the most part rudely constructed,

(The above was taken from The Historical Markers, State Library, State House.)

According to the Blue Book - 1938, the chief products and leading industries of Pocahontas County were as follows: The leading industry of Pocahontas County is lumber, tannery (sole leather). The chief products are: livestock, potatoes, oats, maple sugar, honey, and poultry.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Very much of Pocahontas County was heavily timbered and as the variety and quality was equal to most and surpassed by no other country in the State, before the vast in-roads were made on these timber resources in the last fifteen or twenty years.

Still there is an enormous supply yet remaining after all has been done by rafts, and loaded freight cars. For twenty years or more an interesting feature was or were the lumber camps here and there in the woods where hundreds of men were comfortably housed and fed on the fat of the land in various parts of the county, mainly east of the Greenbrier. On the higher elevations west of the Greenbrier and in the western